

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**1. (Currently amended)** A feeding-stimulating agent, comprising relaxin-3a-  
~~polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, a functionally equivalent modified polypeptide thereof, or a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having 70% or more homology to the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, or a salt thereof.~~

**2. (Currently amended)** ~~A~~An agent for increasing body weight, comprising relaxin-3a-  
~~polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, a functionally equivalent modified polypeptide thereof, or a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having 70% or more homology to the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, or a salt thereof.~~

**3. (Currently amended)** An agent for increasing fat weight, comprising relaxin-3a-  
~~polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, a functionally equivalent modified polypeptide thereof, or a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having 70% or more homology to the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, or a salt thereof.~~

**4. (Original)** A method of screening for a compound which stimulates feeding or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of  
(A) contacting a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell containing a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell, and  
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

**5. (Currently amended)** A method of screening for a compound which stimulates or suppresses feeding or a salt thereof, comprising the step of  
(A) contacting ~~relaxin-3a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, a functionally equivalent modified polypeptide thereof, or a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having 70% or more homology to the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, or a salt thereof, and a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell.~~

**6. (Original)** The method of screening for a compound which stimulates or suppresses feeding or a salt thereof according to claim 5, wherein it comprises the step of  
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

**7. (Original)** The method of screening according to any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the relaxin-3 receptor is SALPR or its partial polypeptide.

**8. (Original)** The method of screening according to claim 7, wherein SALPR is a polypeptide containing the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

**9. (Original)** A kit for screening for a compound which stimulates feeding or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of  
(A) contacting a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell, and  
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

**10. (Currently amended)** A kit for screening for a compound which stimulates or suppresses feeding or a salt thereof, comprising the step of  
(A) contacting ~~relaxin-3a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, a functionally equivalent modified polypeptide thereof, or a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having 70% or more homology to the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, or a salt thereof, and a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell.~~

**11. (Original)** The kit for screening for a compound which stimulates or suppresses feeding or a salt thereof according to claim 10, wherein it comprises the step of  
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

**12. (Original)** The kit for screening according to claim 9, 10, or 11, wherein the relaxin-3 receptor is SALPR or its partial polypeptide.

**13. (Original)** The kit for screening according to claim 12, wherein SALPR is a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

**14. (Currently amended)** A therapeutic agent for the treatment of a disease which requires body weight gain, comprising ~~relaxin-3a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, a functionally equivalent modified polypeptide thereof, or a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having 70% or more homology to the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, or a salt thereof.~~

**15. (Original)** The agent according to claim 14, wherein said disease is anorexia or cachexia.

**16. (Original)** A method of screening for a compound which increases body weight or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of

- (A) contacting a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell containing a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell, and
- (B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

**17. (Currently amended)** A method of screening for a compound which increases or decreases body weight or a salt thereof, comprising the step of

- (A) contacting ~~relaxin-3a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, a functionally equivalent modified polypeptide thereof, or a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having 70% or more homology to the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2~~, or a salt thereof, and a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell.

**18. (Original)** The method of screening for a compound which increases or decreases body weight or a salt thereof according to claim 17, wherein it comprises the step of

- (B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

**19. (Original)** The method of screening according to any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein the relaxin-3 receptor is SALPR or its partial polypeptide.

**20. (Original)** The method of screening according to claim 19, wherein SALPR is a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

**21. (Original)** A kit for screening for a compound which increases body weight or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of

- (A)contacting a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell containing a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell, and
- (B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

**22. (Currently amended)** A kit for screening for a compound which increases or decreases body weight or a salt thereof, comprising the step of

- (A) contacting ~~relaxin-3a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, a functionally equivalent modified polypeptide thereof, or a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having 70% or more homology to the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2~~, or a salt thereof, and a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell.

**23. (Original)** The kit for screening for a compound which increases or decreases body weight or a salt thereof according to claim 22, wherein it comprises the step of

- (B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

**24. (Original)** The kit for screening according to claim 21, 22, or 23, wherein the relaxin-3 receptor is SALPR or its partial polypeptide.

**25. (Original)** The kit for screening according to claim 24, wherein SALPR is a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

**26. (Original)** A method of screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of

- (A) contacting a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell comprising a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell, and
- (B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

**27. (Currently amended)** A method of screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof, comprising the step of

- (A) contacting ~~relaxin-3a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, a functionally equivalent modified polypeptide thereof, or a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having 70% or more homology to the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2,~~ or a salt thereof, and a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell.

**28. (Original)** The method of screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof according to claim 27, wherein it comprises the step of

- (B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

**29. (Original)** The method of screening according to any one of claims 26 to 28, wherein the relaxin-3 receptor is SALPR or its partial polypeptide.

**30. (Original)** The method of screening according to claim 29, wherein SALPR is a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

**31. (Original)** A kit for screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of

- (A) contacting a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell containing a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell, and
- (B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

**32. (Currently amended)** A kit for screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof, comprising the step of

- (A) contacting ~~relaxin-3a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, a functionally equivalent modified polypeptide thereof, or a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having 70% or more homology to the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2~~, or a salt thereof, and a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell.

**33. (Original)** The kit for screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof according to claim 32, wherein it comprises the step of

- (B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

**34. (Original)** The method of screening according to any one of claims 31 to 33, wherein the relaxin-3 receptor is SALPR or its partial polypeptide.

**35. (Original)** The kit for screening according to claim 34, wherein SALPR is a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

**36. (Original)** An agent for suppressing feeding, comprising a compound having an SALPR-inhibiting activity.

**37. (Original)** The agent according to claim 36, wherein the compound having an SALPR-inhibiting activity is a compound obtained by the screening method of claim 7 or 8.

**38. (Original)** An agent for reducing body weight, comprising a compound having an SALPR-inhibiting activity.

**39. (Original)** The agent according to claim 38, wherein the compound having an SALPR-inhibiting activity is a compound obtained by the screening method of claim 19 or 20.

**40. (Original)** An agent for reducing fat weight, comprising a compound having an SALPR-inhibiting activity.

**41. (Original)** The agent according to claim 40, wherein the compound having an SALPR-inhibiting activity is a compound obtained by the screening method of claim 29 or 30.

**42. (Original)** A therapeutic agent for the treatment of obesity, comprising a compound having an SALPR-inhibiting activity.

**43. (Original)** The agent according to claim 42, wherein the compound having an SALPR-inhibiting activity is a compound obtained by the screening method of any one of claims 19, 20, 29, and 30.

**44. (Original)** A therapeutic agent for the treatment of diabetes, comprising a compound having an SALPR-inhibiting activity.

**45. (Original)** The agent according to claim 44, wherein the compound having an SALPR-inhibiting activity is a compound obtained by the screening method of any one of claims 19, 20, 29, and 30.

**46. (Original)** The agent according to any one of claims 36 to 45, wherein SALPR is a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

**47. (Original)** A method of screening for a compound to stimulate or suppress feeding or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of administering a compound which acts on a relaxin-3 receptor to a human or a non-human organism and then measuring the amount of feeding after administration.

**48. (Original)** The method according to claim 47, wherein the compound which acts on a relaxin-3 receptor is a compound obtained by the method of any one of claims 4 to 8.

**49. (Original)** A method of screening for a compound which increases or decreases body weight or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of administering a compound which acts on a relaxin-3 receptor to a human or a non-human organism and then measuring body weight after administration.

**50. (Original)** The method according to claim 49, wherein the compound which acts on a relaxin-3 receptor is a compound obtained by the method of any one of claims 16 to 20.

**51. (Original)** A method of screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of administering a compound which acts on a relaxin-3 receptor to a human or a non-human organism and then measuring indices of obesity after administration.

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**52. (Original)** The method according to claim 51, wherein the compound which acts on a relaxin-3 receptor is a compound obtained by the method of any one of claims 26 to 30.